Interreligious Responses to *Laudato Si’*:  
A Fifth Anniversary Celebration and Reaffirmation of Pope Francis’  
Encyclical on Care of Our Common Home  

October 29-30, 2020  

The President’s Office and Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs  
Georgetown University  
Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology  
(August 27, 2020 draft)  

On the fifth anniversary of his pivotal 2013 encyclical, *Laudato Si’, On Care for our Common Home*, Pope Francis renewed its urgent message: “The cry of the earth and of the poor cannot continue.” “*Laudato Si’*, “Praise be to you,” are the opening words of an often-repeated hymn of praise of God, the earth, and all her creatures by St. Francis of Assisi (1181-1226), whom Pope Francis identifies as “the example par excellence of care for the vulnerable and of an integral ecology.” Resonating that same urgent message, this conference, sponsored by the President’s Office and the Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs of Georgetown University and the Yale Forum of Religion and Ecology and encouraged by the Holy See, draws attention to the even greater urgency of this universally significant document in its fifth anniversary year and how its message resounds across religious traditions. *Laudato Si’* provides a momentous path forward for interreligious dialogue and cooperation. The sponsors seek to encourage increased discernment, cooperation, and policy development for implementing an integral ecology through convening voices from Pope Francis’ staff in Rome BS from various religious traditions and diverse agencies.

The program consists of three online sessions over two days, October 29 and 30, 2020. Cardinal Miguel Ayuso, President of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, will deliver the keynote address in the first session after words of welcome from Dr. John J. DeGioia, President of Georgetown University. Mary Evelyn Tucker and John Grim, Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology, will offer reflections after Cardinal Ayuso’s address. In a second session on October 29, Muslim, Buddhist and Hindu representatives will reflect on how *Laudato Si’* resonates in their religious traditions. On October 30, representatives of various agencies and organizations, structured to connect religious communities on environmental issues, will explore how multireligious cooperation enhances care of the earth and the vulnerable.

**October 29, 2020**  
First Session 10:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. EST  
"How *Laudato Si’* Moves Interreligious Dialogue Forward"

Welcome: Dr. John J. DeGioia, President, Georgetown University  
Speaker: Cardinal Miguel Ayuso,  
President, Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, Confirmed  
Reflections: Mary Evelyn Tucker, Yale University  
John Grim, Yale University

Second Session: 1:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. EST
"How Laudato Si' Resonates among Religious Traditions"
Moderator: Mary Evelyn Tucker, Yale University
Panelists: Muhammad Faruque, Fordham University, Confirmed
Vasudha Narayanan, University of Florida, Confirmed
Kyoichi Sugino, Religions for Peace, Rissho Kosei-kai, Confirmed

October 30
Third Session: 10:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.
“Implementation of Laudato Si': A Call for Multireligious Collaboration"
Moderator: Peter Marra, (Professor and Director of the Georgetown Environment Initiative and Laudato Si' Professor of Biology and the Environment, Georgetown University, Invited
Panelists: Rabbi Ellen Bernstein, Founder, Shomrei Adamah (Keepers of the Earth), Confirmed
Rev. John Chryssavgis, Advisor to the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew on environmental issues, Contacted and Checking
Dr. Iyad Abumoghli, Principal Policy Advisor at United Nations Environment Programme, Faiths for Earth, Confirmed
Rev. Joshtrom Kureethadam, Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, Confirmed